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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/425,177	10/22/1999	MICHAEL CARROLL	52817.000102	9182

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RESTON, VA 20190

EXAMINER

YUAN, ALMARI ROMERO

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 09/24/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/425,177

Applicant(s)

CARROLL, MICHAEL

Examiner

Almari Yuan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed on 7/10/03.
2. The rejection of claims 9, 13, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stern has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
3. Claims 1-20 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 9, 16, and 17 are independent claims.

Drawings

4. The drawings filed on 10/22/99 are objected to as indicated in the attached PTO-948 form. Formal corrected drawings can be filed at allowance.

6. **Claims 9, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Stern et al. (USPN 5,835,919 – filed on 05/1996).**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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8. **Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern et al., as applied to claims 9, 13, and 15, in view of Fleming et al. (USPN 5,664,210 – issued on 09/1997).**

Regarding independent claims 1, 9 and 16, Stern discloses:

A method of processing at least two associated target information regions within an electronic document, the method comprising the steps of:

accepting input to select a continuous target information region; accepting input to process the associated target information regions (Stern on col. 7, lines 46-67, see figure 3B: teaches triangle 60 is selected within the activated frame in dotted line 62 (also selected); wherein the activated frame can be selected by pressing a button on the cursor control device).

However, Stern does not explicitly disclose, “deselect at least one port of the continuous target information region to form the at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions”.

Fleming et al. (Fleming) on col. 2, lines 22-29: teaches deselect selected portions of text and see figure 2C discloses two noncontiguous portions of text is formed by extracting the word “matter” for the single portion of text.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to deselect selected portions of text to form two noncontiguous portion of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

Regarding dependent claim 2, Fleming discloses:

wherein the contiguous target information regions comprises text (Fleming on col. 1, lines 55-61 teaches multiple portion of text can be selected at the same time).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to select portions of text at the same and deselect selected portions of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

Regarding dependent claim 5, Fleming discloses:

accepting input for creating additional associated noncontiguous target information regions (see Fleming Figure 2: teaches noncontiguous portions of text can be formed by cutting words from the single portion of text).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to deselect selected portions of text to form two noncontiguous portion of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

Regarding dependent claim 6, Fleming discloses:

accepting further input to change content of the at least two associated target information regions (Stern on col. 7, line 46 – col. 8, line 6: teaches changing size or shape of the activated frame) and (see Fleming Figure 2: teaches two noncontiguous portions of text can be formed by cutting words from the single portion of text).

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It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to deselect selected portions of text to form two noncontiguous portion of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

Regarding dependent claim 7, Stern discloses:

wherein the electronic document comprises graphical information (Stern on col. 7, lines 46-49, see figure 3B: teaches triangle 60 is a graphical component).

Regarding dependent claim 8, Stern discloses:

wherein the continuous target information region and the at least one portion of the continuous target information region that is deselected (Fleming on col. 2, lines 22-29: teaches deselect selected portions of text and see figure 2C discloses two noncontiguous portions of text is formed by extracting the word "matter" for the single portion of text) are each defined by a rectangle, each rectangle having two delimiter tags located at opposite corners (Stern on col. 7, lines 46-49, see figure 3B: teaches triangle 60 is selected within the frame (box) in dotted line 62 (also selected)).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to deselect selected portions of text to form two noncontiguous portion of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

Regarding dependent claims 10 and 18, Fleming discloses:

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wherein the continuous target information region comprise textual information (Fleming on col. 1, lines 55-61 teaches multiple portion of text can be selected at the same time and does not have to be adjacent to each other).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to select portions of text at the same that does not have to be adjacent to each other and deselect selected portions of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

Regarding dependent claim 13, Stern discloses:

wherein the input interface accepts input from at least one of a keyboard, a speech to text converter, a mouse, a pressure pad and a trackball device (Stern on col. 5, lines 19-21: teaches data entry devices such as keyboard, mouse, trackball or the like).

Regarding dependent claim 14, Fleming discloses:

wherein the input interface receives input for a positional indicator and the processor unit selects information when the positional indicator is moved in a first direction and deselects information when the positional indicator is moved in a second direction (Fleming on col. 2, lines 22-29: teaches deselect selected portions of text by moving the cursor).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to deselect selected portions of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

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Regarding dependent claim 15, Stern discloses:

wherein the electronic document comprises graphical information (Stern on col. 7, lines 46-49, see figure 3B: teaches triangle 60 is a graphical component).

Regarding independent claim 17, Stern discloses:

A system for processing noncontiguous target information within an electronic document, the system comprising:

input means to accept input for selecting a contiguous target information region and processor means for processing the target information regions, said processor means operatively connected to the input means (Stern on col. 7, lines 46-67, see figure 3B: teaches triangle 60 is selected within the activated frame in dotted line 62 (also selected); wherein the activated frame can be selected by pressing a button on the cursor control device).

However, Stern does not explicitly disclose "selecting at least one information separating region that divides the continuous target information region into at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions".

Fleming et al. (Fleming) on col. 2, lines 22-29: teaches deselect selected portions of text and see figure 2C discloses two noncontiguous portions of text is formed by extracting the word "matter" for the single portion of text.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to deselect selected portions of text to form two noncontiguous portion of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated

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into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

9. **Claims 3-4, 11-12, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stern and Fleming, as applied to claims 1-2, 5-10, and 13-18, in further view of Greyson et al. (USPN 5,666,552 – issued on 09/1997).**

Regarding dependent claim 3, Stern and Fleming disclose the invention substantially as claimed as described *supra*. However, Stern and Fleming do not explicitly disclose “first begin select delimiter located left of the target information and a first end select delimiter located right of the continuous target information region”.

Greyson et al. (Greyson) on col. 5, line 43 – col. 6, line 28: teaches initial and final selection point of the selection region.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Stern and Fleming to provide a way to point the selection region with initial and final selection point, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or text, as taught by Stern and Fleming, in order to directly and visually manipulate text on a computer display screen requiring user control activations thereby simplifying the user interface.

Regarding dependent claim 4, Greyson discloses:

accepting input to deselect at least one portion of the target information region comprises storing locations of a second end select delimiter that is located between the first begin select delimiter and first end select delimiter and a second begin select delimiter that is between the

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second and first end select delimiters (Greyson on col. 5, line 43 – col. 6, line 28: teaches extending from the initial selection point to the final selection point of the selection region; wherein using the cursor will define the bounds of the selection region).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Stern and Fleming to provide a way to point the selection region with initial and final selection point, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or text, as taught by Stern and Fleming, in order to directly and visually manipulate text on a computer display screen requiring user control activations thereby simplifying the user interface.

Regarding dependent claims 11 and 19, Greyson discloses:

wherein the processor unit stores a begin tag and an end tag for each of the target information regions (Greyson on col. 5, line 43 – col. 6, line 28: teaches initial (begin tag) and final (end tag) selection point of the selection region) and (Fleming discloses at least 2 associated noncontiguous target information regions, see figure 2C) .

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Greyson into Stern and Fleming to provide a way to point the selection region with initial and final selection point, as taught by Greyson, incorporated into the selection of a graphic or text, as taught by Stern and Fleming, in order to directly and visually manipulate text on a computer display screen requiring user control activations thereby simplifying the user interface.

Regarding dependent claims 12 and 20, Fleming discloses:

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further comprising an output interface to transmit a display that shows at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions in a different manner than the at least one deselected portion of the continuous target information region (Fleming on col. 1, lines 55-61: teaches displaying multiple portion of text that can be selected at the same time and does not have to be adjacent to each other and see figure 2C discloses two noncontiguous portions of text is formed by extracting the word “matter” for the single portion of text.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Fleming into Stern to provide a way to deselect selected portions of text to form two noncontiguous portion of text, as taught by Fleming, incorporated into the selecting of a triangle with an activated frame, as taught by Stern, in order to increase the manipulation of both text and graphical data.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Regarding Applicant's remarks on pages 10-11:

Fleming does disclose “forming at least two associated noncontiguous target information regions from a single continuous target information region”, see Figure 2C teaches two noncontiguous portions of text is formed by extracting the word “matter” for the single portion of text.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

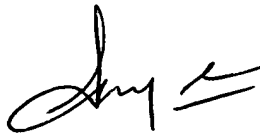
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Almari Yuan whose telephone number is (703) 305-5945. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays - Fridays (8:30am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild can be reached on (703) 305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

AY
September 17, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sanjiv Shah', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER**